

## Minutes

### Aging in Place in the Community Committee

May 10, 2016

Commissioners: Miriam Kelty, Noureen Chohan, Richard Jourdenais,

Guests: Jeff Levine, Jennifer Long, Leslie Marks, Marsha Weber,

Richard Jourdenais was introduced as a new Commissioner and will join this committee.

Leslie Marks, Montgomery County Senior Fellow, presented on the Montgomery County Senior Housing Initiatives and progress. There is continuing discussion on Aging in Place. The county assists with funds for seniors to stay in place but growing needs outpace resources. Housing with on-site services provided is an unmet need.

The county is piloting a program, Nexus Montgomery, with Health Care Partners to provide wrap around services. The program will involve 6 hospitals with the intent to decrease seniors' hospital visits, falls and medication interaction problems. The program will also include pharmacy services, physical therapy and case workers who will serve as liaisons with hospitals and create a "care plan" for these seniors. This program will begin in "low income" housing including Section 8 and voucher housing projects. Some programming has begun with possible go-ahead approval for the pilot program in mid- May. State funds are available.

Another program being explored is a way to provide construction and home modification aid to seniors in their own homes. Habitat for Humanity and other organizations may assist in mitigating safety issues. The county also is concerned about preservation of senior buildings and is exploring options with partners. The county is supportive of seniors, as evidenced by the creation of a Village Coordinator but adequate funds for affordable housing remain a challenge. Collaboration with the Recreation and Transportation Departments to provide services and leverage funds is being explored.

There is concern about seniors with no supports or limited income who have health issues such as dementia, hoarding, etc. who have no place to live. The Nexus group will go to Baltimore to learn about that city's "home sharing" programs and the Green House.

Another initiative mentioned is a program that would allow fire department access to homes without damaging them by breaking doors and/or windows and walls.

A list of senior housing projects in the county was provided which delineates the type of construction, size of the project and the progress. Projects are completed, underway or committed for construction. Most projects are new construction. It was not clear that any of these projects are designed as affordable assisted living units, another housing need.

A discussion noted a large gap in services to seniors who are in their own homes rather than in multiunit buildings or group homes. Other needs are for who adults who have disabilities, co-housing and the introduction of technology in senior homes.

The group thanked Leslie Marks for sharing her knowledge and for the update on senior housing.

The topic of Summer Studies was discussed. The suggestions for a study may at the April meeting included

1. Transportation
2. An assessment on diversity and community needs
3. Landlord and tenant concerns
4. Affordable living taxes

AIPC did not receive written proposals for any of the above topics. The group decided not to submit any summer proposals. Instead, it discussed and agreed to support the proposal on dental services.

The committee does not usually meet in July and August. The chair agreed to notify the members if there will be a meeting in June.